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Letter from Ceylon Kingston to his mother, dated December 4, 1918

Ceylon S. Kingston

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Paris December 4, 1918

My dear Mother:

Have been in Paris eight days now. Tomorrow I am going out on my assignment (Neufchateau) east of Paris not so very far from the Alsace boundary. It is a large French base camp.

The days here have been awfully busy. The last two days have been frightful -- so much to attend to and so far from one place to another. I have had little time for sight-seeing. Last Sunday my roommate and I visited Notre Dame, Napoleon's tomb, the Eiffel tower, Arch of Triumph, Champs Elysees. There are hundreds of captured German cannons of all sorts and sizes arranged along the last named famous Avenue. There are few signs of damage in the city that I have noticed but there are buildings that have been destroyed. I have not had time to go looking for them.

The Americans are going home fast and often the first of the year I expect that they will be going faster still. All are as anxious to get home as they were eager to get over here. Of course the end of the war has affected the Y.M.C.A. work. A lot of the men who have been here for some time are going back now. I think six months will end the work. I think I will be back in the Spring and am making my plans with that idea in mind.

The President will be here next week. Paris will give him a great welcome. King George was here last week. I saw his royal highness. King Albert will be here the last of this week, it is announced.

I have not heard from you yet. I got some letters today that you had forwarded to 12 Rue d'Aguesseau. I expect that the mail at Neufchateau will be rather slow.

There is a lot more that I could write but will wait until I have a little more time.

Affectionately,
Ceylon